

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1018  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, ID, JA, CH  
SUBJECT: INDONESIAN REACTION TO SINO-JAPANESE TREATY

1. SUMMARY: OFFICIAL GOI REACTION TO THE SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY REFLECTS A CAUTIOUS CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE LONG RANGE EFFECTS FOR INDONESIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. PRESS TREATMENT (AS WELL AS SOME PRIVATE COMMENTS BY FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS) INDICATES A SOMEWHAT DEEPER CONCERN IN SOME QUARTERS. BUT THE EMPHASIS IN MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT IS UPON POSITIVE EFFECTS WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO FLOW FROM THE TREATY AND UPON PREPARING EFFECTIVELY TO DEAL WITH THE LESS POSITIVE ONES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA, IN REAMRKS TO  
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THE PRESS FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 18, SAID THAT CONCERN EXPRESSED IN SOME QUARTERS REGARDING THE JAPAN-CHINA PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY IS UNDERSTANDABLE. FOR INSTANCE, HE POINTED OUT, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CHINA WILL INCREASE ITS OIL EXPORTS TO JAPAN AND THAT JAPANESE IMPORTS OF INDONESIAN OIL WILL DECLINE AS A RESULT. HOWEVER, HE ADMONISHED, INDONESIANS SHOULD

NOT ALLOW THIS WORRY TO MAKE THEM PASSIVE, BUT RATHER THEY SHOULD SEEK TO ADJUST THEMSELVES TO THE NEW SITUATION.

3. IMRON ROSYADI, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF PARLIAMENT (DPR), IN A STATEMENT ON AUGUST 15 SAID THAT THE SINO-JAPANESE TREATY SHOULD NOT BE A REASON FOR CONCERN, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE IS AN EXPLICIT ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE. NEVERTHELESS, HE POINTED OUT, IT IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE THAT SOME PEOPLE SHOULD FEEL CONCERNED BECAUSE JAPAN AND CHINA ARE BIG POWERS WHICH COULD POSE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF ASIA. THEREFORE, HE CAUTIONED, INDONESIA SHOULD INCREASE ITS NATIONAL RESILIENCE TO COPE WITH ANY EVENTUALITY AND WORK WITHIN THE ASEAN FRAMEWORK TO MEET ANY OUTSIDE THREAT.

4. THE PRESS, IN ADDITION TO THE WIDE COVERAGE GIVEN THE ABOVE STATEMENTS, HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE TREATY AND ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES. THE STRONGEST REACTION WAS IN COMMENTS BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ROESLAN ABDULGANI AND GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE, LT GEN. SAJIDMAN MADE IN A LENGTHY ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY THE RESPECTED INDONESIAN LANGUAGE DAILY KOMPAS. BOTH SEE THE TREATY AS PRODUCING A FUNDAMENTAL (AND UNFAVORABLE) POWER REALIGNMENT IN THE PACIFIC AREA, OPENING THE POSSIBILITY FOR JOINT CHINESE-JAPANESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOMINATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HEIGHTENING SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY IN THE REGION.

5. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME FEARS ALONG LINES OF ABDULGANI AND SADIDMAN ABOVE. INDONESIA'S BASIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHINA REMAINS EXTREMELY WARY OF PRC INTENTIONS, AS REFLECTED IN THEIR CONTINUING HESITATION TO RE-ESTABLISH DIRECT RELATIONS WITH IT.

6. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN GENERALLY RESTRAINED. KOMPAS SAW THE TREATY LARGELY IN TERMS OF THE INTERESTS OF THE USSR, CHINA AND JAPAN, WITH THE EFFECT ON SOUTH-EAST ASIA BENEFICIAL BECAUSE PEACEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN ARE BETTER THAN HOSTILE RELATIONS. SINAR HARAPAN, ANOTHER LEADING JAKARTA DAILY, ALTHOUGH NOTING THE REALITY OF INCMING JAPANESE-CHINESE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POWER AND EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT THE TREATY MAY LEAD TO INCREASED SINO-SOVIET TENSION, POINTED OUT THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IS FOR THE ASEAN COUNTRIES TO FACE THESE PROBLEMS WITH A CONCERTED LONG RANGE POLICY. THE LEFT-LEANING NATIONALIST DAILY MERDEKA,

HOWEVER, SAW THE TREATY AS REMOVING CHINA FROM ITS  
BALANCING ROLE BETWEEN THE USSR AND US AND PUTTING IT IN  
THE US CAMP. THE USSR, MERDEKA POINTED OUT, IS CERTAIN TO  
REACT STRONGLY TO THIS BY INCREASING ITS MILITARY  
STRENGTH IN THE ASIA PACIFIC AREA. IN A SECOND EDITORIAL  
MERDEKA CRITICIZED FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR'S REMARKS ON  
THE TREATY AS SHALLOW AND QUESTIONED THE DIRECTION IN  
WHICH HE WAS ORIENTING INDONESIAN FOREIGN POLICY.  
GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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